

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 43 No. 3

March 15, 1974

Whole No. 498

## An Overlooked Alger Weekly

By Stanley A. Pachon



### DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 170

### PETERSEN'S POPULAR PRIZE LIBRARY

Publisher: Petersen Prize Publishing Co., 102 Nassau St., New York, N. Y.  
Issues: 4 (high number seen advertised). Dates: February and March 1871.  
Schedule of Issue: Every three weeks. Size: 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ x4". Pages: 100-102. Price: 10c.  
Illustrations: Pictorial cover in one color. Cover of No. 3 illustrated above is tan. Contents: 1. Terence Tierney, Admiral by John Banim. 2. The Cabin Boy, by Capt. Kingston. 3. The Peep O'Day Boys, by John Banim. 4. Captain Doe, the Mountain Chief, Sequel to Peep O'Day, by John Banim.

## An Overlooked Alger Weekly

By Stanley A. Pachon

Without doubt, no American juvenile writer enjoyed the distinction of having his works reprinted so often, by so many publishers, over such a long period of time as Horatio Alger, Jr.

Alger also had the distinction, if it could be called that, of having a weekly in Nickle Novel format devoted almost exclusively to his stories. This was the Boys Home Weekly published in Cleveland, Ohio, by the Arthur Westbrook Co. This publication ran from May 17, 1911 to February 21, 1912 for forty issues.

But there was an earlier attempt made to launch a magazine devoted to "Alger" stories. The first number appeared on April 1, 1911 and had a rather shorter life. It was called by its publishers "Star Stories (Long and Short)" and was published by the MacLellan Company of Akron, Ohio and New York City. The makeup of Star Stories was altogether different from the Boys Home Weekly, being closer to pocket book size. A description of issue No. 4 is given in detail, which should prove of some interest to the Alger "completionists."

The publication was 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ x7" in size. The front cover was given over to the table of contents, while the back cover carried an illustration of a young girl sliding down the slope in a skiing outfit of the period with a long slender pole under her arm. The background slope is carried over to the spine of the publication and front cover to provide a background for the table of contents for the volume.

The front cover has the title of the publication in large red letters at the top of the cover:

"Star (design of a large red star) Stories" and below this in smaller black type in parenthesis, "(Long and Short)" followed in larger black type the principal story. "Ben's Nugget / Horatio Alger, Jr." This is followed by a listing of the additional stories. The type size varies in the various notices given:

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### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- 350. Miss Judith M. Rockefeller, RD #2 Box 125A, Accord, N. Y. 12404  
(New member)
- 274. George Geiss, 108 E. Colonial St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19120 (New add.)
- 197. William H. Beadle, 300 Rinconada Ave., Stuart, Fla. 33494 (New add.)
- 351. J. N. Petit, 530 W. Berry St., Ft. Wayne, Ind. 46802 (New member)
- 352. A. Grall, 64 Darebin St., Heidelberg, Victoria 3086, Australia (New member)

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DIME NOVEL ROUNDUP—Vol. 43, No. 3, Whole No. 498—March 15, 1974  
Published monthly at 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kansas 66044. Edited by Edward T. LeBlanc, 87 School St., Fall River, Mass. 02720. Second class postage paid at Lawrence, Kansas 66044. Assistant Editor, Ralph F. Cummings, 161 Pleasant St., South Grafton, Mass. 01560. Subscription: \$5.00 per year. Ad rates—10c per word, \$2.00 per column inch; \$4.00 per quarter page; \$6.00 per half page and \$10.00 per full page. Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month in order to assure publication in the following month's issue.

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kans. 66044

"Strange Ports. John Fleming Wilson  
The Romance of Mining. A. B. Cooper  
The Lighted Tree. Lionel Edwards  
Every Story Complete as  
written by the Author"  
"5 cents (decorative design) No. 4

Published every Week.  
MacLellan - N. Y. - Company  
Akron, Ohio

On the inside of the front cover  
the publisher gives some details as to  
the contents and publication pattern  
and stresses the fact that the publica-  
tion is a magazine.

"Star Stories  
For Boys of all Ages  
A Four Times a Month Magazine  
Price Five cents a Copy."

"Each number will contain a com-  
plete novel and several Short Stories  
without editing or abridgement of  
any kind. Every word written by the  
author is in them."

Below the publishers "Blurb" are given the contents of the first four  
numbers that were published in April.

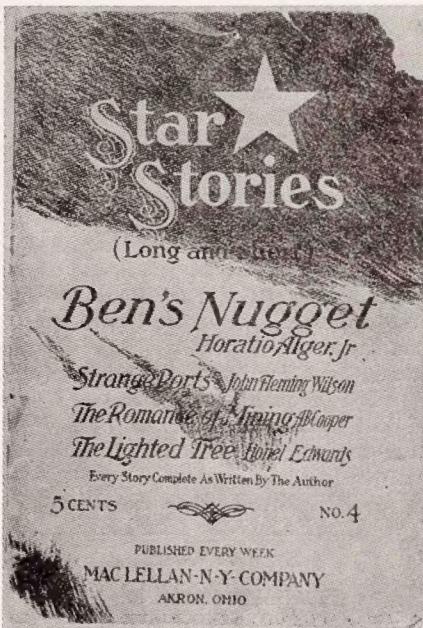
- "No. 1. The Young Adventurer. A Novel, by Horatio Alger, Jr.  
In Southern California,—Arthur Paine  
The Amateur Bell Ringer—A. D. Pocock
- No. 2 The Young Miner, A Novel by Horatio Alger, Jr.  
The Under-Sea Sailor—Day Allen Willey  
The Voyage of the Dora—W. E. Priestly
- No. 3. The Young Explorer, A Novel by Horatio Alger, Jr.  
On Andalusian Plains—Lionel Edwards  
My Smuggling Trip—John Mackie"
- No. 4 The contents already have been given).

Below this the publishers' address is given as  
"MacLellan -N-Y- Company  
Publishers

N. Union and Perkins Sts. Akron, O."

The first page simply carries the title of the lead story while page ii the  
publishers monogram is given with address as "MacLellan—New York, 147  
Fourth Ave., New York, N. Y." Page iii carries the title page and page iv  
carries the biographical details as to Alger and lists some of Alger's books.  
This is identical with the one put out by the New York Book Co. The story  
starts on page 1 and here for the first time the subtitle is given. "Ben's Nug-  
get; or, A Boy's Search for Fortune." The Alger story ends on page 101  
and the rest of the pages are given up to the short stories which end on page  
122. On the inside back cover the publisher repeats some of his statements  
from the front cover and further states, "printed on high grade book paper,  
from new printing plates which were all made this year." The publisher also  
lists the titles of the stories which were to appear in May and June.

- No. 5 Helping Himself, by Horatio Alger, Jr.
- 6 The Store Boy, by Horatio Alger, Jr.



- 7 Charlie Codman's Cruise, by Horatio Alger, Jr.
- 8 The Boy Hunters of Kentucky, by Edward S. Ellis
- The June 1911 numbers were
  - 9 Andy Grant's Pluck, by Horatio Alger, Jr.
  - 10 The Tin Box, by Horatio Alger, Jr.
  - 11 Chester Rand, by Horatio Alger, Jr.
  - 12 Walter Sherwood's Probation, by Horatio Alger, Jr.

Some time later the MacLellan Co. reissued some of the volumes in a plain cloth cover and gold lettering. One of them, Ben's Nugget, still carried the short stories that were included in Star Stories.

Some time about 1915, the New Werner Co. of Akron, Ohio, issued a series called, "The Best Book Series." Various other writers besides Alger were included among the 30 volumes of the series. The Alger books included had the same format and were identical in every way with the MacLellan editions, even including the short stories that were in the Star Stories.

It is true that the data here presented is not a startling discovery, but it does indicate the infinite variety of reprinting of the Alger books, the only true criteria of a writer's popularity.

### **SCOUT MASTER G. HARVEY RALPHSON'S TRIPLETS**

**By Bob Chenu**

This series, published by Denohue, is made up of twenty-two different titles, but only twenty different stories. The listing follows:

1. Boy Scouts in Mexico
2. Boy Scouts in the Canal Zone
3. Boy Scouts in the Philippines
4. Boy Scouts in the Northwest
5. Boy Scouts in a Motorboat
6. Boy Scouts in an Airship
7. Boy Scouts in a Submarine
8. Boy Scouts on Motorcycles
9. Boy Scouts Beyond the Arctic Circle
10. Boy Scouts Camera Club
11. Boy Scout Electricians
12. Boy Scouts in California
13. Boy Scouts on Hudson Bay
14. Boy Scouts in Death Valley
15. Boy Scouts on the Open Plains
16. Boy Scouts in Southern Waters
17. Boy Scouts in Belgium
18. Boy Scouts in the North Sea
19. Boy Scouts under the Kaiser
20. Boy Scouts in the Verdun Attack
21. Boy Scouts Mysterious Signal
22. Boy Scouts with the Cossacks

These are the 22 titles. However, Under the Kaiser, In the Verdun Attack, and Mysterious Signal are all one and the same story with 3 different titles.

Boy Scouts Under the Kaiser was copyrighted in 1916. The obvious rea-

son for changing the title was the entry of the United States into World War I, when the Kaiser became an enemy. A change to Boy Scouts in the Verdun Attack is thus easily accounted for. Why the same story was eventually given still a third title—Boy Scouts Mysterious Signal—is not so clear, yet it was done as comparison of text proves.

And so, Boy Scout collectors, as far as the story goes, if you have one of these three you have them all. But the book DOES exist under all three titles, and not as a part of some other series, or under some other author's name. As to why, in the immortal words of Roy Blakely, "It is clear as mud."

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## Beadles In England—Part II

By Denis R. Rogers

### Part III : Routledge editions of Beadle's London publications

#### (1) Beadle's American Sixpenny Library, etc.

When Erastus Beadle ended his London venture the publication rights in the Sixpenny publications were sold to George Routledge & Sons. Routledge extended the run of Beadle's American Sixpenny Library from No. 61 ("The Three Hunters" by James L. Bowen, which was the final issue to bear the Beadle London imprint and was published on 1 March 1866) to No. 84 ("Old Jupe; or, A Woman's Art" by Mrs. Orrin James, which was issued on 1 February 1868). Actually, as will be explained at the end of this section, there may have been at least one more issue beyond No. 84, but certainly that number was the last new title to be imported under the arrangement with Beadle, whereby Routledge continued publication of all the existing Beadle titles (i.e., those still in print at the time of Beadle's departure from the London publishing scene).

The Routledge editions seen differ from their Beadle forerunners in having attractive colored wrappers—thereby anticipating Beadle's introduction of colored wrappers in the U.S.A. by eight years—and in being printed on much superior quality paper to that used by Beadle. The Beadle cover designs, which were reproductions of the frontispieces, continued to be used by Routledge for Beadle's American Sixpenny Library. As no Routledge wrapped issues of either Beadle's American Sixpenny Biographies or Beadle's Sixpenny Tales have come to light as yet, it is uncertain whether Routledge continued to use the Beadle cover formats for those series, which would not have been improved to any great extent by the introduction of color.

It seems possible that stocks of some texts were sufficient for the continuing life accorded to the various Beadle series by Routledge but, of course, colored wrappers would have been substituted for the buff wrappers used by Beadle on all items offered by Routledge.

At least two tales were reprinted by Routledge without the author's name on the title page. They are:

Beadle's American Sixpenny Library No. 13 : Monowano the Shawnee Spy by Edward S. Ellis.

Beadle's American Sixpenny Library No. 48 : Joe Daviess' Client; or, Courting in Kentucky by Mrs. M. V. Victor.

Additionally the series number was omitted from the wrapper of "Monowano the Shawnee Spy."

Twenty-five titles have been found with the Routledge imprint, where the author's name continued to be shown on the title page, including another copy of "Monowano the Shawnee Spy." From this evidence I infer that, in all probability, Routledge did not drop the author's name from title pages immediately on taking over publication of Beadle's American Sixpenny Library, but only for late reprints.

Consequently we neither know how many of the Beadle sixpenny publications were actually reprinted by Routledge nor how many were reprinted a second time (or a first time for that matter) by Routledge with no author's name on the title page.

One small clue has been found to indicate that Routledge did not continue publication of Beadle's Sixpenny Tales as long as he did that of Beadle's American Sixpenny Library. That clue is a list of Beadle's American Sixpenny Library (12mo : 6d each : Routledge & Co.) in the Collections, Libraries, Series, etc., appendix to "The English Catalogue of Books" compiled by

Sampson Low (Sampson Low, Marston, Low & Searle : Crown Buildings, 188 Fleet Street, London : 1873). The list ends with No. 85 : The Emerald Necklace. This points to Routledge having discontinued the issue of Beadle's Sixpenny Tales and then transferred at least one of the nine titles to Beadle's Sixpenny American Library. No copy of "The Emerald Necklace; or, Mrs. Battersby's Boarder" by Mrs. M. V. Victor (Beadle's Sixpenny Tales [No. 51]) has been found with a Routledge imprint or with a Routledge wrapper, but there is no evidence to suggest that Routledge discontinued Beadle's Sixpenny Tales immediately upon taking over the publications of the London branch of Beadle. Indeed such evidence as does exist is contrary to such an idea.

## (2) Routledge's Threepenny Novels

Somewhere around 1885 George Routledge & Sons Limited, as the firm had by then become, dusted off the plates of Beadle's American Sixpenny Library and reprinted many titles as Routledge's Threepenny Novels. That title appeared only on the front cover, which reproduced in colors against a white background the picture used on the front wrapper of the Beadle's American Sixpenny Library edition.

Otherwise the booklets were a straight reprint of the original Beadle text, with a new Routledge title page. No complete listing of Routledge's Threepenny Novels has been found, although the titles listed below are set out in a box at the front of the four issues in the series held by the British Museum, namely, "The King's Man. A Tale of South Carolina in Revolutionary Times" by A. J. H. Duganne; "Mabel Meredith; or, Hates and Loves" by the author of "Madge Wylde"; "Ruth Margerie. A Romance of the Revolt of 1689" : Anonymous; and "The Scout" by Warren St. John. All four issues were registered at the British Museum on 12 July 1890.

One more surviving issue of Routledge's Threepenny Novels is known to exist, namely that illustrated in this issue of "The Round-Up." Like the B.M. registration volumes, "The Indian Queen" by Mrs. Ann S. Stephens is unnumbered. It differs, however, in including in the title box only the fifteen titles asterisked in the list below plus one other, "The Seminole Chief" and in including an advertisement for Norton's camomile Pills, which gives a testimonial from one, F. Wilkinson of Croydon, dated 1885.

This is the sum total of our evidence, but it is sufficient to permit a few deductions:

(1) the probable publication dates of Routledge's Threepenny Novels were between 1885 and 1890, although publication of the series may have begun earlier and continued later.

(2) as the series was not numbered we know only that at least forty-one issues of Beadle's American Sixpenny Library and Beadle's American Sixpenny Biographies were reprinted in Routledge's Threepenny Novels. There are no clues as whether the other Beadle/Routledge publications were reprinted in the series (i.e., forty-three issues of Beadle's American Sixpenny Library, eleven (all the) issues of Beadle's Sixpenny Tales and five issues of Beadle's American Sixpenny Biographies).

(3) the fact that the title page of "Ruth Margerie" gives no author's name indicates that issues of Beadle's American Sixpenny Library (e.g., "Monowano, the Shawnee Spy") on reprints of which Routledge had dropped the author's name from the title page in the late 1860's, perpetuated the omission in the Routledge's Threepenny Novels reprints.

(4) the titles given in the box are almost certain to have been abbreviations and there is little doubt that the title appearing on the title page was that used for the original English edition put out by Beadle and continued by

Routledge, in each instance.

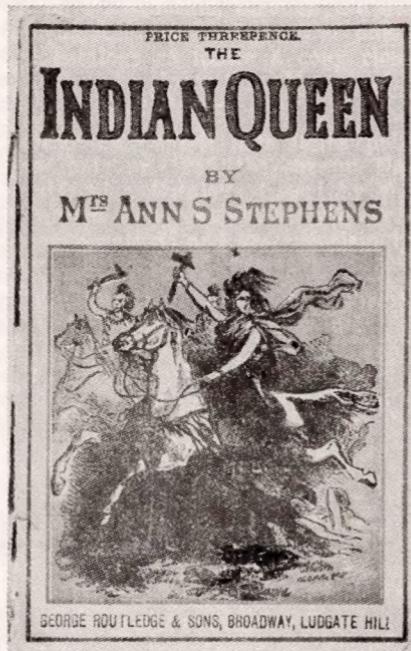
The figures in parenthesis against the titles listed immediately below are those applied in Beadle's American Sixpenny Library. No numbers have been inserted against the Lives of Crockett and Carson because, although Professor Johannsen numbered Beadle's American Sixpenny Biographies, the booklets themselves were not so distinguished from one another.

- \*Ahmo's Plot (30)
- \*Alice Wilde (2)
- Alicia Newcombe (19)
- \*The Allens (22)
- \*The Backwood's Bride (8)
- \*Bill Biddon (7)
- The Block House (21)
- The Brethren of the Coast (14)
- The Creole Sisters (79)
- The Frontier Angel (3)
- The Hunter's Escape (50)
- \*Indian Jim (40)
- \*The Indian Queen (43)
- The King's Man (32)
- Laughing Eyes (36)
- \*Life of Col. David Crockett
- \*Life of Kit Carson
- The Lost Trail (46)
- Mabel Meredith (29)
- Mahaska (29)
- Massasoit's Daughter (6)
- Monowano (13)
- The Moose Hunters (44)
- Nat Todd (9)
- The Orinoco Chief (57)
- The Peon Prince (34)
- \*The Prisoner of the Mill (63)
- Quindaro (53)
- The Riflemen of the Miami (18)
- Ruth Margerie (24)
- The Scout (31)
- The Scout's Prize (59)
- \*The Secret Shot (62)

Included in both boxes was one tale, which had nothing to do with Beadle, namely "The Pirate" by Captain Marryat. As mentioned above one title appeared in the title box of "The Indian Queen," but not in the title box common to the four titles in the British Museum, namely:

The Seminole Chief (65).

All that remains is to say that copies of Routledge's Threepenny novels measure  $6\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{16}$ , are well printed on good rag paper and would grace any collection.



- Seth Jones (1)
- Single Eye (28)
- \*Star Eyes (68)
- \*The Three Hunters (61)
- The Trapper's Pass (55)
- \*The Twin Scouts (69)
- The Two Guards (27)

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Edward,

Just a week or so ago I came across a book entitled *Nancy MacIntyre: A Tale of the Prairie* by Lester Shepard Parker. The copy I saw was a reprint by some man in Dallas, Texas who is now deceased. He was interested in the book, found the plates in Kansas and published 500 or so copies which he distributed free to friends. The story is in verse and I would guess it was published before 1900, maybe later. I just don't know. I would like to find out the publisher, place in Kansas of publication, and the date. Also I would love to know anything about Lester Shepard Parker. Miss Nancy is quite a girl—wears cartridge belt around her waist—and she saves the hero from a bad situation or two, and in the end runs the villain off from the Kansas homestead herself. The hero gets there—late as usual.

Hope you can help.

Joyce Roach  
Box 143, Keller, Texas 76248

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